

NSC BRIEFING

DOCUMENT NO. _____
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐
☒ DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. GRANTED TO: TS S C
NEXT REVIEW DATE: _____
AUTH: HR 70-2
DATE: 1/3/80 REVIEWER: 372044

20 October 1960

SOVIET SPACE PROGRAM PROPAGANDA

- I. Review of Soviet propaganda statements on manned space flights, in light of movement of Sibir instrumentation ships and other indications, indicates propagandists went out on a limb.
- A. Propaganda emphasis on Soviet program to place man in space built up gradually from May 1960 until late August when marked step-up noted.
- B. Soviet statements after Sputnik V success reflected increased confidence and by late September tended to omit references to further tests prior to initial effort with man.
- C. Specific attention drawn to imminence of space effort about time Sibir class ships reached stations in Pacific (mid-September). Period ships on station coincided closely with Khrushchev's stay in New York.
- D. Specific statements:
1. 16 September--Moscow announced "World Day" to be observed 27 September.
 2. 26 September--Soviets said "Science will mark another splendid event in the next few days." "Mankind stands on the threshold of first trip of an interplanetary ship with a crew of people."
 3. 26 September--Moscow announced, according to unconfirmed (From Radio Moscow to Arctic stations):
[REDACTED] radio broadcast/ "Soviet scientists will attempt to bring back to earth a cosmic ship..."

25X1D

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

4. 28 September--Soviets revealed existence of astronaut training program in USSR and stated "manned flight is not far off."

5. 1 October--Prague Radio announced: "An astronaut will be launched in a few days time into orbit."

II. Statements after 1 October indicate Soviet propaganda retreated.

A. Diverted attention from imminent operation.

B. Resumed discussion of safety precautions.

C. Re-introduced comment on Soviet probes to Moon, Mars and Venus.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~